



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 700

Chairperson: Senator DiAnna R. Schimek
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 23, 2001

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 700 would eliminate the Task Force for Building Renewal and instead create the Department of Building Renewal. This new Department would have the same duties under the Deferred Building Renewal Act as the Task Force currently does. The property, personnel, contracts, funds, rules and regulations would all be transferred from the Task Force to the Department of Building Renewal. The Director would be required to have training and experience in architecture or building maintenance and renewal. The Director would be appointed by the Governor as in similar state agencies. LB 700 would clarify that the Director and Department would have the duties currently required of the Governor under the Deferred Building Renewal Act. The bill maintains the Legislative Committee on Building Maintenance and requires quarterly reports to the Governor and the Committee on Building Maintenance on the projects classified and the amounts allocated to the projects.

Currently, the Task Force for Building Renewal is funded through General Fund dollars. LB 700 would fund the new Department of Building Renewal's operation and the administration of the Deferred Building Renewal Act through a newly created Building Renewal Cash Fund. The Building Renewal Cash Fund will include two percent of the revenue accrued in the Building Renewal Allocation Fund and five percent of the revenue accrued in the State Building Renewal Assessment Fund. The Building Renewal Allocation Fund contains the proceeds of the seven cents from the cigarette tax dedicated to building renewal. The State Building Assessment Fund contains the funds assessed upon agencies for the purpose of building renewal.

The bill would be effective on July 1, 2001.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Ramon E. Janssen